

Subway

**SHEPTON MALLET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Including details submitted to me by the Sanitary Inspector)

**For the Year Ending
31st December, 1952**

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

T. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

G. F. HAWKINS, CERT. S.I. JT. BOARD CERT. R.S.I. (MEAT and OTHER FOODS). (SENIOR).

M. D. WATSON, CERT. R.S.I. JT. BOARD CERT. R.S.I. (MEAT and OTHER FOODS). (ADDITIONAL) (until 15/11/52)

(Mr. G. F. HAWKINS also holds the appointment of Surveyor).

CLERK :

A. D. STOCKDALE

June, 1953.

TO THE
SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1952.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2278
Population (1952) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5259
Number of Inhabited Houses (1951) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1462
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£26,838
Produce of Penny Rate (estimated) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£108
Number of Inhabited Houses is based on the following:—									
Dwelling Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1392
Banks and Offices with Living Accommodation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Shops, etc., with Living Accommodation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Club Premises with Living Accommodation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hotels and other Licenced Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Public Institutions (Hospitals, etc.) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Crown Properties ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total ...									1516

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In addition to shops, offices, building trades and allied trades, the main sources of employment in the town are cider factories (2), breweries (2), shoe-making, glove factories (2), millers, bacon factory and meat products, railways (2), agricultural engineering, research chemists, general engineering (2) garages and motor engineering, dry-cleaning and dye-works, rope works, motor haulage.

There is very little unemployment other than that of a transitory nature.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Live Births:—				Males	Females	
Total ...	...	...	...	36	49	
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	35	47	
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	1	2	Birth Rate:—15.3 per 1,000
Still Births:—				Males	Females	
Total ...	...	...	...	0	1	
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	0	1	
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	0	0	Birth Rate:—0.35 per 1,000

DEATHS.

	Total	Males	Females	
Deaths from all causes ...	57	26	31	Death Rate:— 11.3 per 1,000
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth:—				
(a) From Sepsis ...	...	...	...	0
(b) From other causes ...	...	...	...	0
Deaths of Infants under One Year of age:—				
Legitimate, 2 Illegitimate, 0, Total, 2.				
Deaths of Infants under One Week ...	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ „ from One to Four Weeks ...	...	...	...	0
„ „ „ „ from One to Six Months ...	...	...	...	0
„ „ „ „ from Six to Twelve Months ...	...	...	...	0
Total ...				2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 57 compared with 61 in 1951.
The chief causes of death were:—

Cancer	14
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	36
Old Age	0
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	10
In all "Causes of Death":—	
Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were	15
„ „ „ „ 81 and 85 were	14
„ „ „ „ 86 and 90 were	7
Those dying above the age of 90 were	3
A total of 39 or 68.42% of the total Deaths.	

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0	3
Meningitis	1	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Tuberculosis:—Total	11	0	4
(a) Respiratory	9	0	3
(b) Non-Respiratory	2	0	1

The notification of Infectious Diseases in the District by Medical Practitioners was fairly satisfactory.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No Cases Notified.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Pneumonia caused 3 deaths.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

A.—PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (1) General: There are 2 Nurses in the District engaged in general district work, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.
- (2) For Infectious Diseases: One case of infectious disease was removed to an Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the District.

B.—MIDWIVES.

There are 2 Certified Midwives practising in the District.

C.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is one Tuberculosis Dispensary in Charlton Road, provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

- (1) Tuberculosis: None.
- (2) Fever: None.
- (3) Other: Some unused buildings in the grounds of the former Isolation Hospital have been converted into a Hospital for the aged sick.

The Cubicle block of the former Isolation Hospital has been converted into a Maternity Hospital.

There is one District Hospital at Shepton Mallet for the treatment of general medical and surgical cases. There is no Public Assistance Institution, the building having been taken over by the County Council as an Institution for persons suffering from Mental Deficiency.

E.—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS: None.

HOMELESS CHILDREN: Hillworth House, staffed and equipped by the Somerset County Council.

F.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(1) For Infectious Cases: None.

(2) For Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents:—Two Motor Ambulances and one sitting case Car are kept at the Ambulance Depot, Shepton Mallet, and in cases of need, additional ambulances are obtainable through the local branch of the B.R.C.S., and also from Wells and Radstock.

G.—SCABIES:—No cases of Scabies have been reported to me.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at The Public Health Laboratory, Taunton; considerable use of this Laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Boots (Chemists), and Miss Watkins (Chemist). Supplies can be obtained from them by Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription form.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There is one Sanitary Inspector and Housing and Sanitary Surveyor, and an additional Sanitary Inspector until 15/11/52 (both whole-time officers) and myself (a part-time officer). There is one Health Visitor in the District.

8.—WATER SUPPLY.

Practically the whole of the houses in the Urban District have piped water supplies from the mains of the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company. A Brewery and Bacon Factory supplement the supply from their own wells.

During the year, the supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Eighteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Satisfactory reports were received in all instances.

The Beacon Hill spring supply serves a small number of properties in the northernmost part of the urban district, the remainder of the area being fed by the Windsor Hill springs. The waters are not thought to have any plumbo-solvent action.

A few houses share communal taps, five premises use a private piped supply and six houses rely on well supplies.

The Bacon Factory mentioned above has its own well, but the water is used for washing down and flushing purposes only, the town supply being utilised for all processes in connection with food production.

Water Supplies from Public Mains:—

DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
1450	5089	2	7

FUTURE PROPOSALS:—

The Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company, in connection with reciprocal arrangements with the Shepton Mallet Rural District Council, commenced the extension of their main at Old Wells Road.

During the year, the main at Christopher Way and Mason Way was extended in connection with the Council's housing programme.

Preliminary steps have been taken by the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company to acquire a site in the Compton Road area, with particular regard to the improvement of supplies for houses recently erected and proposed to be built in that locality, and it is understood that it is hoped to construct a new reservoir there in the next few years.

It is also proposed subsequently to construct a reservoir at Downside.

In addition, the reciprocal arrangements between the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company and the Shepton Mallet Rural District Council are intended to improve the supplies in the Cannards Grave district.

Arrangements have also been made for the laying, during the early part of 1953, of a new main linking the Council's Housing Estate at Ridgeway with the main at West Shepton.

9.—SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Most of the premises in the Urban District drain into the public sewer, with the exception of about seventy properties in outlying areas, mainly Cannard's Grave, Darshill and Fosse Lane.

FUTURE PROPOSALS:—

Draft proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the modernisation of the Sewage Disposal Works and extension of the capacity thereof, as a result of which an informal inquiry was held in December 1952 by an Inspector of the Ministry.

The approximate cost would be about £83,000.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in district on 31st December 1952:—

(1) Pail closets 30 (estimated) (2) W.C.'s 1459 (estimated) (3) Other, None.

10.—HOUSING.

DETAILS OF HOUSES ERECTED AND IN COURSE OF ERECTION.

		Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection at 31/12/52		Conversion to flats or dwellings		Temporary such as Army Huts, etc.
		Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	...	28	—	7	—	—	—	—
Private Enterprise	...	6	—	9	—	—	—	—
Totals		34	—	16	—	—	—	—

Inclusive of those above built during the year:—

Total number of houses in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1496
" " " owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	306

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1951		Programme for 1952	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
166	26	24	16

The applications for Council houses fall into the following groups, in the following order:

(1) Living in shared accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
(2) Applicants living outside the Urban District and desirous of obtaining accommodation because of local employment or other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
(3) Insanitary and unfit housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(4) Other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
								171

Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949.

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority and Ministry:—

LOCAL AUTHORITY.

	Received		Approved		Rejected		Under Consideration	
	Applica-tions	No. of Houses	Applica-tions	No. of Houses	Applica-tions	No. of Houses	Applica-tions	No. of Houses
(a) To 31/12/51	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
(b) During year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MINISTRY.

	No. Sent		Approved		Rejected		Under Consideration	
	Applica-tions	No. of Houses	Applica-tions	No. of Houses	Applica-tions	No. of Houses	Applica-tions	No. of Houses
(a) To 31/12/51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) During year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

11.—MINISTRY INQUIRIES.

An informal inquiry was held in December 1952 by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the proposal to modernise and extend the Sewage Disposal Works.

12.—MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of registered dairy premises	5
No. of Registered Distributors	5

No supplementary licences have been issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the District.

13.—ICE CREAM.

NO. OF PREMISES REGISTERED FOR:—

(a) Manufacture only	Nil
(b) Manufacture and Sale	1
(c) Sale only	11

14.—SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses in use under Ministry of Food	1
Number of registered slaughterhouses	Nil
Number of slaughterhouses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	Nil

Names of any slaughterhouses in use under Ministry of Food.

C.W.S. Bacon Factory, Charlton Road, Shepton Mallet.

Total number of animals slaughtered during the year at slaughterhouses in use under the Ministry of Food:—56,630.

Approximate weight of meat condemned:—132,274 lbs.

15.—FOOD PREMISES.

Number of premises registered under Sec. 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	9
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16.—BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Date Byelaws came into operation—11th December, 1950. No special action taken other than routine inspection of food premises.

17.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The existing arrangements for the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse have been continued. A weekly collection is made of all premises in the District, this work is carried out by contract, a Karrier C.K.3 model 10 cubic yard covered refuse collection vehicle with hydraulic tipping being used.

As regards trade refuse, the Council make a charge, in normal cases, on the basis of 5% of the rateable value of the trade premises and for this payment collect trade refuse on two additional days per week. In the case of a large factory, special arrangements have been made for the removal and disposal of their trade refuse, the actual cost being recovered from the occupiers of the premises.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping on the controlled system, at a disused quarry at Windsor Hill, Downside, Shepton Mallet; except that some trade refuse and waste paper are incinerated.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year.

18(a).—PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOL.

There is one Swimming Pool in the Urban District owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated. The temperature of the water is maintained at about 70 deg. F. (minimum).

The type of purification plant is the Horseley Piggott with a Wallace & Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator

The water was regularly tested, at both inlet and outlet for residual chlorine and pH value. The turnover period is estimated to be approximately 12 hours. The pool is filled from the mains of the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company.

The daily number of bathers fluctuates considerably, mainly on account of climatic conditions; the estimated maximum daily load is 400 persons, including a large proportion of children.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1952.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities*	1	25	12		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	45	14		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' prem- ises)	3				
Total		70	26		

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND: None.

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing Apparel, Making	24	2	Nil.

19.—KNACKERS YARDS

Number registered in district Nil

20.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

None

21.—CAMPING SITES.

No licenses have been issued in respect of camping sites.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.